BLUE RIBBON TROUT STREAM – NATIONALLY RENOWNED

Fisherman's Log

HELP GATHER FISHING INFORMATION, WRITE THE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT FOR A FISHERMAN'S LOG

FISH DIVISION
MONTANA FISH & GAME DEPT.
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

Montana 1971-72 Fishing Regulations

Fishing Licenses

Residents — All residents 15 years or older must have a license to fish.
Nonresidents — All nonresidents 15 years or older must have a fishing license to fish. Nonresidents under the age of 15 years may fish without a license when accompanied by an adult with a valid Montana fishing license. The total number or pounds of all fish taken by the licensed adult and all persons under 15 years accompanied by such licensed adult shall not exceed one legal limit. However, a nonresident under 15 years may purchase a nonresident license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

Wildlife Conservation License required before purchase of any other fish or game license.

Residents 15 years and older—Conservation License	$ .25
Nonresidents 15 years and older—Conservation License	1.00
Resident Fishing License (stamp)	4.00
Resident Sportsman's License (includes Wildlife Conservation License)	20.25
Nonresident Season Fishing License (stamp)	15.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (6-day, stamp)	5.00
Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (1-day, stamp)	1.00
Nonresident Fish, Bird, and Big Game License (includes Wildlife Conservation License)	$151.00
Residents 65 or older need only a Pioneer License to fish. (Available only from State Fish and Game Offices and Wardens)	.15
Combination Pioneer and Wildlife Conservation License (available from license dealers)	.40

Special licenses and permits are available for patients at Veterans' Administration Hospitals and residents of certain State institutions.

License fees are not refundable

It Is Unlawful

To empty a minnow bucket (release live fish) or otherwise transplant or introduce any fish or fish eggs into any waters.

To take fish in any manner except by angling with a single pole and/or line in hand or under immediate control unless specifically authorized by fishing regulations.

To refuse to show license on demand.

To loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person.

To sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations.

To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state-owned recreation property or private property where public recreation is permitted, including lakes, streams, campgrounds and access areas.

To use or possess minnow seines or traps, snares, or fish traps unless specified under area regulations.

To use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any stream where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish.

To operate a boat upon Montana waters which:
Is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat.
Does not have one serviceable life preserver for each passenger.
Preservers must be of a type approved by U. S. Coast Guard. Persons under 13 years old must wear life preservers when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.
Is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety Law (copies available from Montana Fish and Game Department).

Motorboat Closures

It is illegal to operate motor-propelled boats or other motor-propelled craft on the following bodies of water:

Harper Lake in Missoula County.
Park Lake in Jefferson County.
Broadview Pond in Yellowstone County.
Bearpaw Lake in Hill County.
Cole Ponds in Phillips County.
Whitetail Reservoir in Daniels County.
Gartside Reservoir in Richland County.
Branum Lake (Miles City Fish Pond) in Custer County.
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir in Lewis and Clark County.

REGULATIONS

MAY 16, 1971 through MAY 20, 1972

The map above is an aid only. Legal descriptions of fishing districts and regulations follow in print.

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1971-72 fishing season are adopted.

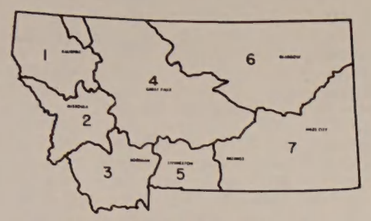
Montana Fish and Game Commission
Frank H. Dunkle, Secretary
January 10, 1971

To be in full force and effect through May 20, 1972. All regulations, except state laws, are subject to change by the Commission. For up-to-date information, inquire of the local State Fish and Game Warden.

SECTION A
DESCRIBES BASIC LIMITS AND SEASONS

SECTION B
DESCRIBES MORE LIBERAL LIMITS AND SEASONS

OVER



SECTION A
BASIC LIMITS AND SEASONS

The following regulations apply statewide except where district fishing regulations specify otherwise.

FISHING LICENSE

A fishing license is a permit for the lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations.

SEASONS

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

FISHING HOURS

Fishing is allowed at all hours during any open fishing season, unless otherwise posted.

GAME FISH

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling, and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sandpike or sauger and walleye or yellow pike-perch); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); and all species of the genus Acipencer (sturgeon).

BASIC DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMIT

The daily and possession limit of all game fish species in the aggregate shall be ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. There is no limit on nongame fish.

Daily limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during the legal fishing hours of a day.

Possession limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish which may be in possession in any form, fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved at any time or in any place or manner.

The total numbers or pounds of all fish taken by a licensed adult, and all unlicensed nonresident persons under fifteen (15) years accompanied by such licensed adult, shall not exceed that licensed adult's limit. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified. Weight limits to be computed by dressed weight with heads and tails intact, provided that two (2) fish may be caught regardless of weight limitation.

MEANS OF TAKING

Only a single line and hook or hooks with or without a pole may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in these regulations. Pole or line must be in immediate control.

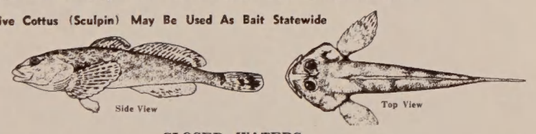
Use or possession of minnow seines or traps, snares, or fish traps is unlawful. Except a screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait.

BAIT: It shall be prohibited for any person to use, possess, or transport any fish (except sculpins) dead or alive for fish bait, except as provided under WATERS OPEN TO BAIT FISHING. All waters of the state are closed to the use of carp or goldfish for bait.

This does not prohibit the use of cut bait, or the use of whole dead fish preserved or frozen. Fish used for cut bait must have their heads or entrails removed.

It shall be prohibited for any person to introduce into any water any food or substance that may concentrate or attract fish. (This does not prohibit angling for fish with legal lures and baits or placing bait inside hoop nets where hoop nets are permitted.)

Live Cottus (Sculpin) May Be Used As Bait Statewide



CLOSED WATERS

All waters operated by the Fish and Game Department and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Waters in which the Fish and Game Department is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted. WATERS CLOSED UNDER FISHING DISTRICT REGULATIONS.

CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons thirteen (13) years of age and over.

BEAVER PONDS, IRRIGATION CANALS AND DITCHES

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on a stream are governed by the same regulations as the stream. Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open the year around, except in Ravalli County—see Fishing District 2 regulations.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES

Certain waters on Indian reservations and National wildlife refuges may have special regulations. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the reservation or refuge involved.

FISHING DISTRICT 1
Northwestern Montana

CLARK FORK RIVER DRAINAGE BELOW THE MOUTH OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, FLATHEAD RIVER AND KOOTENAI RIVER DRAINAGE

ALL LAKES AND RESERVOIRS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except Kilbrennan Lake open third Sunday in May through September. Lake Mary Ronan open third Sunday in May through March of the following year. Rogers, Spoon, and Bailey Lakes, and lakes in the South Fork of the Jocko Drainage on the Flathead Indian Reservation closed entire year. All lake and reservoir areas within three hundred (300) feet of stream mouths closed from March 1 to the opening date of stream.

ALL STREAMS OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER, except (1 & 2 below)

(1) STREAMS OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN JUNE THROUGH NOVEMBER: South Fork of Flathead River above Hungry Horse Reservoir, its tributaries and all tributaries of Hungry Horse Reservoir. The tributaries of the North Fork and Middle Fork of Flathead River except those closed the entire year. Jocko River and its tributaries above the mouth of the South Fork of Jocko River. Swan River from Big Fork Dam to a point three hundred (300) feet downstream.

(2) STREAMS CLOSED ENTIRE YEAR: Herrig Creek, tributary of Little Bitterroot Lake. Rand, Green Mountain and Fish Creeks, tributaries of Ashley Lake. Donaldson and Freeland Creeks, tributaries of Lake Mary Ronan. Rogers Lake. Spoon (Ninemile) Lake and all waters in its drainage above the lake. Big Creek, Coal Creek and all their tributaries. Whale Creek and its tributaries below Whale Creek Falls. Trail Creek (Yakinikak) below mouth of Thoma Creek. The following tributaries of Middle Fork Flathead River: Granite, Morrison, Lodgepole, Long Creeks and their tributaries. South Fork of Jocko River and all its tributaries.

OTHER: The minimum size of Dolly Varden (bull trout) which may be taken in the North Fork, Middle Fork and the South Fork of Flathead River and their tributaries, the main Flathead River above Kerr Dam, Flathead Lake and that portion of Swan River below Big Fork Dam shall be eighteen (18) inches with head and tail intact.

FISHING DISTRICT 2
West Central Montana

CLARK FORK RIVER DRAINAGE (Defined as the Clark Fork River Drainage above the mouth of the Flathead River.)

ALL LAKES AND RESERVOIRS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except: Echo Lake open third Sunday in May through November. Browns Lake open third Sunday in May through March of the following year. Inez, Alva, Rainy, Clearwater and Summit Lakes open third Sunday in June through November. Georgetown Lake open third Sunday in May through October, and from third Sunday in December through February of the following year.

ALL STREAMS (and all man-made irrigation ditches in Ravalli County) OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER, except: the Clearwater Drainage above the Inez Lake fish barrier and the Little Blackfoot Drainage above the Helena Lions Sunshine Camp open from third Sunday in June through November. Stuart Mill Creek, Flint Creek above Georgetown Lake, and Hardtla Creek open from third Sunday in July through October. Bitterroot River above bridge at Florence and its East and West Forks closed to whitefish fishing only from October 1 through November each year.

FISHING DISTRICT 3
Southwestern Montana

JEFFERSON RIVER, MADISON RIVER AND GALLATIN RIVER DRAINAGES

ALL LAKES AND RESERVOIRS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except: Agnes and Conklin Lakes open third Sunday in May through November. Hebgen, Wade and Earthquake Lakes open third Sunday in May through February of the following year. Hidden, Goose and Otter Lakes open third Sunday in June through November.

ALL STREAMS OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER, except: O'Dell Creek, Spring Creek and West Fork Madison River in Madison Drainage open third Sunday in May through September. **Fishing from or with the aid of boats or other floating craft is prohibited in the Madison River from Quake Lake to McAtee Bridge.**

FISHING DISTRICT 4
Central Montana

UPPER MISSOURI RIVER, UPPER MUSSELSHELL RIVER, DEARBORN RIVER, SUN RIVER, TETON RIVER, MARIAS RIVER, ST. MARY RIVER and UPPER MILK RIVER DRAINAGES (Defined as the Missouri River tributary drainages from Three Forks to and including the Marias River, tributary drainages of the Missouri River on the south side from the Marias to but not including the Musselshell Drainage, the Musselshell River and tributary drainages above the bridge at Mosby, the St. Mary River and tributary drainages and the Milk River and tributary drainages in Glacier County).

ALL LAKES AND RESERVOIRS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except: Holiday Lake in Meagher County open January 1 through February each year. Eyraud (Arod) Lakes open from second Sunday in June through February of the following year.

ALL STREAMS OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER, except: Flagstaff Creek and tributaries to Holiday Lake in the Musselshell Drainage closed entire year.

FISHING DISTRICT 5
South Central Montana

UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE (Defined as the Yellowstone River Drainage above and including Clarks Fork Yellowstone River).

ALL LAKES AND RESERVOIRS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR.

ALL STREAMS OPEN THIRD SUNDAY IN MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER.

FISHING DISTRICT 6
Northeastern Montana

LOWER MISSOURI RIVER, LOWER MUSSELSHELL RIVER and MILK RIVER DRAINAGES (Defined as the Missouri River Drainage below the Musselshell River, the Missouri River and all drainages from the north which enter the Missouri River between the Marias River and the Musselshell River, the Milk River Drainage outside of Glacier County, and Musselshell River and drainage below the bridge at Mosby).

ALL WATERS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except: Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in the Bearpaw Mountains open third Sunday in May through November.

FISHING DISTRICT 7
Southeastern Montana

LOWER YELLOWSTONE RIVER and LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER DRAINAGES (Defined as the Yellowstone River Drainage below and excluding the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River, and all other drainages in Montana southeast of the Yellowstone River).

ALL WATERS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR, except: Rush Hall Reservoir in Fallon County shall be closed to fishing from November 1 each year through January of the following year.

SECTION B
ADDITIONAL LIMITS AND WATERS WITH MORE LIBERAL SEASONS AND MEANS OF TAKING

ADDITIONAL LIMITS

In all waters of Montana except Georgetown Lake and Lake Mary Ronan, one each of the following limits may be taken in addition to the basic daily and possession game fish limit as described under section A.

Additional Limit 1 Brook Trout: ten (10) pounds, no number limit.

Additional Limit 2 Walleye, Sauger and Bass: Five (5) fish total in any combination.

Additional Limit 3 Whitefish: Twenty (20) fish. Note whitefish seasons and limits section of these regulations.

In all waters of Fishing District 1, except Lake Mary Ronan and in Dailey Lake in Fishing District 5, a fourth additional kokanee and coho salmon limit of twenty-five (25) pounds and one (1) fish, not to exceed thirty-five (35) fish, and not more than two (2) days limit allowed in possession will be allowed in addition to the basic limit and additional limits 1, 2, and 3.

There is no daily or possession limit on bass in Fishing Districts 6 and 7 or in War Horse Reservoir in Fishing District 4.

In the lakes of the Beartooth and Absaroka Mountain areas of Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Park Counties the limit shall be ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish (no number limit), except for Cooney Reservoir, West Rosebud, East Rosebud, Emerald, Crater, Dailey, Wild Bill, Kersey, Rock Island, No Ketchum, Chrome, Blue, Abundance, Picket Pin, Lily Pad and Greenough Lakes where regular basic limit shall apply.

WATERS WITH MORE LIBERAL SEASONS

The Big Hole River Drainage above Divide Dam shall be open to fishing for brook trout the entire year, except that portion of the Big Hole River from the bridge at Wisdom to Divide Dam.

The following rivers, but not their tributaries, will be open the entire year: Little Bitterroot River below its tunnel, Ashley Creek below Smith Lake, Flathead River below Kerr Dam, Kootenai River, Clark Fork River below Warm Spring Creek, Clearwater River below the Lake Inez fish barrier, Big Blackfoot River below Scotty Brown Bridge, Bitterroot River below the Florence Bridge, Gallatin River from Gallatin Gateway Bridges to confluence with Missouri River, East Gallatin River below mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek, Jefferson River, Ruby River below Ruby Dam, Madison River below Ennis Lake, Beaverhead River below Clark Canyon Dam, Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds from the mouth to Virginia City, Mill Creek near Sheridan, Missouri River, Sun River below Gibson Dam, Pondera Coulee, Judith River below its confluence with Big Springs Creek, Cut Bank Creek below Blackfeet Reservation Boundary, Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville, Smith River below the confluence of the North and South Forks Smith River, that portion of North Fork Dearborn River below the high bridge on the Sterns-Augusta Highway, Teton River below U. S. Highway 91, Marias River, Musselshell River below the bridge at Barber, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Yellowstone River and Bluewater Creek.

Madison River between Hebgen and Ennis Lakes shall be open from the third Sunday in May each year through February of the following year.

SPECIAL WHITEFISH SEASONS AND LIMITS

Although whitefish are one of the game species included in the basic ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish limit, if you can distinguish this species you may take twenty (20) of them in addition to the basic limit, from any water open to angling. Also, from December 1

each year through March of the following year, all waters will be open for the taking of whitefish only except: waters closed entire year, waters closed as posted, and Georgetown Lake. Bitterroot River above bridge at Florence and East and West Forks Bitterroot River closed to whitefish fishing from October 1 through November each year.

An additional ten (10) whitefish (for a total daily limit of thirty (30) fish with two (2) days limit allowed in possession) may be taken from the entire Yellowstone Drainage, from the Missouri River between Holter Dam and Black Eagle, and from the South Fork of the Flathead River Drainage above Hungry Horse Dam.

SNAGGING AND BOW AND ARROW HUNTING SEASONS FOR FISH

The following waters are open to the snagging of salmon, September 1 through January of the following year:

Fishing District 1—All waters except those Closed Entire Year.

Fishing District 2—Georgetown Lake, snagging allowed from the shore only. Clearwater Drainage below Inez Lake fish barrier.

Fishing District 4—Helena Valley Reservoir, Ackley Lake, Inlet Canal from Kunkle Drop to Lake Francis, Lake Francis and the outlet stream.

Fishing District 5—Dailey Lake.

During the open snagging season on these waters twenty-five (25) salmon not to exceed twenty-five (25) pounds and one (1) fish constitutes the daily limit and not more than two (2) days limit shall be allowed in possession. This daily limit is in addition to the basic limit.

All waters open to angling are open to the snagging and bow and arrow hunting of paddlefish and nongame fish.

SET LINE FISHING REGULATIONS

On the following waters, during the periods designated, each angler may use up to six (6) lines with up to six (6) hooks per line and these lines need not be under his immediate control:

OPEN FEBRUARY 15 THROUGH JUNE each year for burbot (ling) and sturgeon only: Kootenai River.

OPEN DECEMBER 1 THROUGH MARCH of the following year: Missouri River and mainstem impoundments from and including Canyon Ferry Reservoir to Holter Dam (including Lake Helena and the Helena Valley Reservoir), Cut Bank Creek below Cut Bank city water intake dam, all lakes and reservoirs in Fishing Districts 6 and 7, except Broadview Pond and Bighorn Lake (Yellowtail Reservoir) and Afterbay.

OPEN ENTIRE YEAR: Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River below the bridge at Bridger, Lake Francis, Missouri River from bridge at Cascade to Black Eagle Dam and below Morony Dam, Teton River below U. S. Highway 91, Musselshell River below the bridge at Lavina, Marias River in its entirety (including Tiber Reservoir), *Split Rock Lake, Pishkun* Reservoir, Fort Peck Reservoir, Milk River and its impoundments (including Fresno and Nelson Reservoirs), Poplar River, Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments, Ester Reservoir, McNeil Slough, and all streams in the Yellowstone Drainage downstream from the mouth of Bighorn River, main Yellowstone River below the mouth of the Clarks Fork, Little Bighorn River from its mouth to the mouth of Lodge Grass Creek and Bighorn River below Two Leggins diversion dam.

SPEAR FISHING, MINNOW SEINING, HOOP NETTING AND SPECIAL BAIT FISHING REGULATIONS

Skin divers when swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with the aid of rubber or spring propelled spears in waters open to fishing.

From December 1 through March of the following year, northern pike and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from Pishkun Reservoir and Split Rock Lake and Lake Francis in Fishing District 4 and from Echo Lake in Fishing District 1. Northern pike, walleye, sauger and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from all waters in Fishing District 6 and all waters in Fishing District 7 downstream from the mouth of Bighorn River.

In addition to the use of sculpins, which is allowed in all waters, the use of other nongame fish (except carp or goldfish) will be allowed in Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Kuester Reservoir, Cole Ponds, Tongue River Reservoir, Bighorn Lake and its Afterbay Reservoir, McChesney Reservoir, Killenbeck Reservoir, Fort Peck Reservoir, Nelson Reservoir, impoundments on Milk River below Fresno Dam, Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments, Little Warm Reservoir, Ester Reservoir, McNeil Slough, Raymond Reservoir, Bainville Railroad Ponds, Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam, Musselshell River downstream from highway bridge at Lavina, and all streams and rivers in Fishing Districts 6 and 7, **except** Pryor Creek, Sage Creek, Little Bighorn River upstream from the mouth of Lodge Grass Creek, Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Dam and streams south of Highway No. 2 which originate in the Bearpaw Mountains.

In all of the above listed waters where use of fish for bait is allowed, nongame species may be taken:

1. With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish in Milk River downstream from U. S. Highway No. 2 bridge below Dodson Dam (except from Vandalia Dam to a point one-quarter (¼) mile downstream), in Missouri River below the mouth of Milk River, in Yellowstone River downstream from the mouth of Bighorn River (except for approximately two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams as posted). Each net must be clearly marked with the owner's name and address.